

CLAIMS

What I claim is:

Sub A1

A floor mat comprising
a non-woven carpet pile substrate;
a pile material tufted into said non-woven carpet pile substrate which forms a pile surface
on one side of said substrate; and
a vulcanized expanded rubber backing sheet of rubber integrated to the other side of the
carrier fabric,
wherein said rubber backing sheet comprises a blowing agent to produce a closed
cell structure foam rubber,
and
optionally, solid vulcanized rubber reinforcement strips present along at least one of the
borders of the mat;
wherein said floor mat possesses suitable flexibility to be laundered on a regular basis in
a standard industrial washing machine without appreciably damaging said mat or said machine;
and
wherein said non-woven carpet pile substrate possesses a heat shrinkage factor of from
about 2.0 to about 2.5% and said rubber backing sheet possesses a heat shrinkage factor of from
about 2.0 to about 2.5%.

2. The floor mat of Claim 1 wherein
at least one solid vulcanized rubber reinforcement strip is present and possesses a heat shrinkage factor of from about 2.0 to about 2.5%.
3. The floor mat of Claim 1 wherein
said carpet pile substrate is comprised of natural or synthetic fibers; and
said pile material is comprised of natural or synthetic fibers.
4. The floor mat of Claim 1 wherein
said carpet pile substrate is comprised of fibers selected from the group consisting essentially of polyester, nylon, polypropylene, cotton, and blends thereof; and
said pile material is comprised of synthetic fibers.
5. The floor mat of Claim 1 wherein
said carpet pile substrate is comprised of polyester fibers; and
said pile material is comprised of 100% solution dyed nylon fibers.
6. The floor mat of Claim 1 wherein
said carpet pile substrate weighs from about 3.5 to about 4.5 ounces per square yard.

7. The floor mat of Claim 1 wherein
said carpet pile substrate weighs from about 4.0 ounces per square yard.

8. The floor mat of Claim 1 wherein
silica is added to the rubber backing sheet.

9. The floor mat of Claim 1 wherein
said blowing agent forms a solid skin on the surface of the rubber covering the closed
cells of the foam rubber.

10. The floor mat of Claim 1 wherein
said foam rubber backing sheet possesses a water absorption rate of below about 10%.

11. A floor mat comprising
a non-woven carpet pile substrate;
a pile material tufted into said non-woven carpet pile substrate which forms a pile surface
on one side of said substrate;
a vulcanized expanded rubber backing sheet of rubber integrated to the other side of the
carrier fabric; and
optionally, solid vulcanized rubber reinforcement strips present along at least a plurality
of borders of the mat;

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wherein said floor mat possesses suitable flexibility to be laundered on a regular basis in a standard industrial washing machine without appreciably damaging said mat or said machine;

wherein said non-woven carpet pile substrate possesses a shrinkage factor of from about 2.0 to about 2.5%; and

wherein both said rubber backing sheet and said vulcanized solid rubber reinforcement strips possess a modulus strength of greater than about 1,000 pounds per square inch.

12. The floor mat of Claim 11 wherein

 said carpet pile substrate is comprised of natural or synthetic fibers; and

 said pile material is comprised of natural or synthetic fibers.

13. The floor mat of Claim 11 wherein

 said carpet pile substrate is comprised of fibers selected from the group consisting essentially of polyester, nylon, polypropylene, cotton, and blends thereof; and

 said pile material is comprised of synthetic fibers.

14. The floor mat of Claim 11 wherein

 said carpet pile substrate is comprised of polyester fibers; and

 said pile material is comprised of 100% solution dyed nylon fibers.

15. The floor mat of Claim 11 wherein
said carpet pile substrate weighs from about 3.5 to about 4.5 ounces per square yard.
16. The floor mat of Claim 11 wherein
said carpet pile substrate weighs from about 4.0 ounces per square yard.
17. The floor mat of Claim 11 wherein
silica is added to the rubber backing sheet.



A handwritten signature, possibly "Adolf", is written in cursive ink. It features a stylized 'A' with a loop, followed by a 'd' and an 'o'. The signature is written in a fluid, expressive hand.